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/***** THIS IS A COMBINED MESSAGE *****/

BODY

TAGS: OPRC, KMDR, FR
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION REPORT - EUROPE: ALLEGATION OF GWOT
SECRET PRISONS AND RENDITION FLIGHTS IRAQ - SADDAM TRIAL AND
DEMOCRACY EUROMED- BARCELONA CONFERENCE AND GWOT ISRAEL -
SHARON

PARIS - MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2005

(A) SUBJECTS COVERED IN TODAY'S REPORT:

EUROPE: ALLEGATION OF GWOT SECRET PRISONS AND RENDITION
FLIGHTS

IRAQ - SADDAM TRIAL AND DEMOCRACY

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EUROMED- BARCELONA CONFERENCE AND GWOT
ISRAEL - SHARON

B) SUMMARY OF COVERAGE:

ON SATURDAY, LE MONDE HEADLINED: "THE AMERICANS CREATED A **SECRET PRISON IN KOSOVO.**" THE FRONT-PAGE STORY REVOLVED AROUND ALLEGATIONS MADE BY GIL ROBLES, THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSIONER AT THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL, WHO RECOUNTED HIS VISIT OF CAMP BONDSTEEL IN KOSOVO IN SEPTEMBER 2002. ACCORDING TO HIM, THE DETAINEES WORE ORANGE JUMPSUITS, "LIKE THE ONES IN GUANTANAMO." HE WONDERS WHETHER "BONDSTEEL SERVED AS A CLEARING HOUSE FOR DETAINEES ARRIVING ON CIA FLIGHTS, BETWEEN AFGHANISTAN, THE MIDDLE EAST EUROPE AND GUANTANAMO." ASKED BY LE MONDE WHY HE WAS SPEAKING UP NOW, ROBLES ANSWERED: "THE NUMBER OF RECENT ALLEGATIONS ABOUT CIA SECRET PRISONS AND THE MAGNITUDE OF RENDITION FLIGHTS HAVE BROUGHT BACK TO MIND THE EPISODE, SHEDDING NEW LIGHT ON IT."

MONDAY'S LE MONDE DEVOTES ITS EDITORIAL TO THIS PARTICULAR STORY, COMMENTING: "IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY SHOCKING IF THE U.S. USED THE PROVINCE OF KOSOVO AS CONQUERED TERRITORY WHEN IT WAS IN FACT UNDER UN MANDATE." SATURDAY'S LE FIGARO ALSO REPORTS ON THE SUSPICION OF A "SMALL GUANTANAMO IN KOSOVO." ARNAUD DE LA GRANGE CLAIMS "THE FRENCH MILITARY DOUBTS THE EXISTENCE OF SUCH A PRISON." (SEE PART C) DE LA GRANGE INTERVIEWS GENERAL VALENTIN: "I VISITED CAMP BONDSTEEL ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS AND NOTED THAT ALL WAS REGULAR. I FOUND 75 DETAINEES AND SUGGESTED IT WAS TOO MANY."

THE "DIFFICULT TRIAL" OF SADDAM HUSSEIN IS FEATURED ON THE FRONT PAGE OF LE FIGARO, WHICH CONTENTS THAT "FEAR DOMINATES THE DEBATES." LE FIGARO DEVOTES SEVERAL ARTICLES TO IRAQ, ONE OF WHICH, BY RENAUD GIRARD, IS TITLED "DEMOCRACY AS PROMISED BY THE AMERICANS, IS SLOW IN COMING." GIRARD WRITES: "DEMOCRACY APPEARS TO BE A DISTANT PROSPECT THAT MAY EVEN BE TOTALLY UNREALISTIC." (SEE PART C) LIEUTENANT COLONEL JAMES CORUM IS INTERVIEWED IN LE FIGARO ABOUT THE TRAINING OF THE IRAQI POLICE: "THE PENTAGON'S MISTAKE WAS TO GO TO WAR WITHOUT A PLAN OF RECONSTRUCTION FOR IRAQ'S SECURITY FORCES. WE WILL NEED FROM TWO TO THREE YEARS BEFORE THE IRAQIS CAN HANDLE SECURITY ON THEIR OWN."

OTHER INTERNATIONAL NEWS INCLUDE THE EUROMED SUMMIT IN BARCELONA WITH COMMENTARIES ON INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM (SEE PART C). JOSE-MANUEL BARROSO, PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION, WRITES AN OP-ED IN LE FIGARO: "THE LINE OF

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DEMARCATON BETWEEN FOREIGN POLICY AND DOMESTIC POLICY IS BECOMING LESS CLEAR. IDEOLOGICAL RADICALIZATION AND TERRORISM HAVE PRIVATIZED THE WAR. THESE PROBLEMS CANNOT BE RESOLVED BY SINGLE NATIONS. IN THIS REGARD THE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN REGION IS A EUROPEAN PRIORITY: IT IS AT THE CROSSROADS OF THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES: PEACE, SECURITY AND THE FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM." LIBERATION DEVOTES AN EDITORIAL TO WHAT IT CALLS "SHARONISM" OR ARIEL SHARON'S "DE GAULLE-STYLE" CHARISMA. (SEE PART C)

(C) SUPPORTING TEXT/BLOCK QUOTES:

EUROPE: ALLEGATION OF GWOT SECRET PRISONS AND RENDITION FLIGHTS

"UNALIENABLE RIGHT"

LEFT-OF-CENTER LE MONDE IN ITS EDITORIAL (11/28): "WAS THERE A GUANTANAMO-STYLE PRISON IN KOSOVO AFTER 2001? IF THE ANSWER IS YES, HAS IT BEEN CLOSED SINCE THEN? DID THE AMERICANS USE KFOR

***** BEGINNING OF SECTION 2 *****

INSTALLATIONS TO CREATE A PRISON THAT DID NOT ANSWER TO INTERNATIONAL LEGISLATION? ALL OF THESE QUESTIONS HAVE BEEN RAISED BY THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSIONER AT THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL, GIL ROBLES. HIS COMMENTS HAVE COME TO REINFORCE CONCERNS BEING VOICED BY INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS. THE KOSOVO DETAINMENT CENTER HE TALKS ABOUT IS SAID TO HAVE HOUSED KOSOVAR ACTIVISTS AND A HANDFUL OF OTHERS FROM THE MIDDLE EAST. THIS INFORMATION SEEMS TO CORROBORATE THE SUSPICION THAT WASHINGTON OFFICIALS MAY HAVE 'OUTSOURCED' DETENTION CENTERS FOR 'TERRORISTS' IN EUROPE, IN 'FRIENDLY' NATIONS EITHER READY TO OVERLOOK CIVIL LIBERTIES OR WHO WERE PARTICULARLY VULNERABLE TO PRESSURE. SUCH ACTIVITIES, IF THE ACCUSATIONS PROVE TO BE TRUE, ARE INEXCUSABLE. THEY DISCREDIT THE RHETORIC OF DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS, WHICH WERE SUPPOSED TO JUSTIFY THE CRUSADE AGAINST TERRORISM AND TYRANNY LAUNCHED BY THE U.S. AFTER 9/11. THEY DISHONOR A NATION THAT PRESENTS ITSELF AS THE INCARNATION OF UNIVERSAL VALUES, AS THEIR DEFENDER AND PROMOTER. CONTRARY TO WHAT PRESIDENT BUSH'S ENTOURAGE BELIEVES, WAR DOES NOT JUSTIFY EVERYTHING. CERTAINLY NOT TORTURE, AS SENATOR MCCAIN RECENTLY REMINDED THE PRESIDENT. IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY SHOCKING IF THE U.S. USED THE PROVINCE OF KOSOVO AS CONQUERED TERRITORY WHEN IT WAS IN FACT UNDER UN MANDATE, TO IMPLEMENT SUSPICIOUS METHODS. ITS ALLIES MUST REACT FIRMLY TO THIS. THIS IS A GOOD OPPORTUNITY FOR FRANCE, ALWAYS READY TO DEFEND LEGALITY, TO VOICE ITS

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DISAPPROVAL. THE WEST DID NOT WAGE A WAR IN KOSOVO FOR HUMANITARIAN REASONS, TO TOLERATE TODAY THE CREATION OF ZONES WHICH ARE OUTSIDE THE LAW."

"SUSPICION ABOUT A 'SMALL GUANTANAMO' IN KOSOVO"

ARNAUD DE LA GRANGE IN RIGHT-OF-CENTER LE FIGARO (11/26): "A LITTLE GUANTANAMO IN THE HEART OF EUROPE? THE RECENT ALLEGATIONS OF 'SECRET CIA PRISONS' ACROSS EUROPE HAVE LED GIL ROBLES TO WONDER ABOUT THE PAST EXISTENCE OF A GUANTANAMO-STYLE PRISON IN KOSOVO, WHICH HE VISITED IN 2002: BONDSTEEL CAMP. IN HIS DECLARATIONS TO LE MONDE HE SAYS HE SAW 15 TO 20 DETAINEES WEARING GUANTANAMO-STYLE ORANGE JUMPSUITS. THE QUESTION THAT COMES TO MIND THEN IS WHETHER THE AMERICANS USED THE BASE IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THEIR FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM. OFFICIALLY, THEY WERE BANNED FROM DOING THIS BECAUSE THE BASE WAS UNDER NATO COMMAND. BUT THE THEN FRENCH GENERAL IN COMMAND, GENERAL VALENTIN SAYS: 'I VISITED THE CAMP SEVERAL TIMES AND JUDGED THEY WERE TOO MANY INMATES (75); I ASKED FOR AN EXPLANATION AND FOR THE NUMBER TO BE REDUCED TO A HALF-DOZEN.' VALENTIN DOES CONFIRM THE PRESENCE AT CAMP BONDSTEEL OF 'NORTH AFRICAN-LOOKING INDIVIDUALS.' BUT ALL OF THIS, HE SAYS, 'WAS KNOWN AND OFFICIAL.' THE FRENCH MILITARY DOUBTS AMERICANS MIGHT HAVE USED A NATO BASE FOR SECRET ACTIVITIES. THE PRISON MAY HAVE SERVED MORE AS A TRANSIT STOP FOR DETAINEES ON RENDITION FLIGHTS, RATHER THAN AS A DETENTION CENTER."

IRAQ - SADDAM TRIAL AND DEMOCRACY

"DEMOCRACY LONG IN COMING"

RENAUD GIRARD IN RIGHT-OF-CENTER LE FIGARO (11/28): "TWO AND A HALF YEARS AFTER THE TOPPLING OF SADDAM, IRAQ STILL DOES NOT HAVE POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS THAT WORK. THE PEACEFUL DEMOCRACY PROMISED BY THE PENTAGON'S NEO-CONSERVATIVES APPEARS TO BE A FAR AWAY PROSPECT, AND POSSIBLY AN UNREALISTIC ONE. IRAQ POSSESSES A SHOWCASE FOR DEMOCRACY - PRESS CONFERENCES AND FREE ELECTIONS BROADCAST BY FOREIGN TELEVISIONS - BUT IT IS NOT A NATION GOVERNED BY THE RIGHT OF LAW THAT USUALLY ACCOMPANIES A DEMOCRACY. THE INCIDENT OF MILITIA OPERATING WITHIN THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR IS NOT AN ANECDOTE. IT IS A SYMBOL OF A COUNTRY WITH PRACTICALLY NO AUTHORITY, WHERE ALLEGIANCE GOES TO ONE'S TRIBE, CLAN OR FAMILY. THE RECENT ELECTIONS SHOW THAT VOTERS WERE NOT MOVED BY A NATIONAL PLATFORM, BUT THAT THEY FOLLOWED RELIGIOUS AND ETHNIC CONSIDERATIONS. WITHOUT SECURITY, FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION IS A

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VAIN WORD. AND IN TODAY'S IRAQ AN INDIVIDUALS SECURITY IS
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GUARANTEED BY HIS TRIBE, NOT THE AMERICANS."
EUROMED- BARCELONA CONFERENCE AND GWOT
"AN 'ALLIANCE OF CIVILIZATIONS' TO COUNTER TERRORISM"
ALAIN BARLUET IN RIGHT-OF-CENTER LE FIGARO (11/28): "CAN THE
FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM HELP TO BRING CLOSER TOGETHER THE TWO
SIDES OF THE MEDITERRANEAN? IN A REGION WHERE THE SLIGHTEST
MENTION OF 'THE WAR AGAINST TERROR,' DEAR TO PRESIDENT BUSH,
PROVOKES ALLERGIC REACTIONS, THE STAKES GO BEYOND SECURITY.
HENCE THE 'ALLIANCE OF CIVILIZATIONS' MADE OFFICIAL IN
BARCELONA IN ORDER TO REDUCE THE CULTURAL AND RELIGIOUS
FRACTURE THAT FEEDS ISLAMIC RADICALISM. AT THE CLOSE OF THE
CONFERENCE THE FINAL DOCUMENT WILL INSIST ON 'ZERO TOLERANCE'
FOR TERRORISM. THE TEXT WILL ALSO INCLUDE A REFERENCE TO
COOPERATION BETWEEN THE POLICE AND JUSTICE SYSTEMS, AND INVITE
THE DIFFERENT NATIONS TO SHARE INFORMATION ON TERRORISTS AND
THEIR SUPPORTERS. BUT THIS IS EASIER SAID THAN DONE: ON THE
OTHER SIDE OF THE MEDITERRANEAN THE DEFINITION OF TERRORISM
ITSELF VARIES, COLORED AS IT IS BY THE PALESTINIAN-ISRAELI
CONFLICT. THE PARTICIPANTS BELIEVE THAT THIS DIFFERENCE IN
PERSPECTIVE, BETWEEN 'CIVILIAN INNOCENTS' AND 'REBELS FIGHTING
THE OCCUPIERS' COULD LEAD TO A SHOCK BETWEEN CIVILIZATIONS.
THE RISK IS GREATER, THEY THINK, BECAUSE OF THE U.S STRATEGY
IN FIGHTING TERRORISM, FROM WHICH MANY WANT TO DISTANCE
THEMSELVES."

ISRAEL - SHARON

"SHARONISM"

PATRICK SABATIER IN LEFT-OF-CENTER LIBERATION (11/28): "IS
SHARON LIKE DE GAULLE, A CHARISMATIC GENERAL WHO WILL BE ABLE
TO LEAD HIS NATION TO PEACE AND MAKE CONCESSIONS NO ONE
BELIEVED HE COULD MAKE? WILL THERE BE SHARONISM' LIKE
'GAULLISM?' IS SHARON'S PLAN TO CONFINE THE PALESTINIANS
BEHIND THE SECURITY FENCE WITHOUT ECONOMIC PROSPECTS AND TO
CLOSE THE DOOR ON A COMPROMISE FOR JERUSALEM? OR DOES HE WANT
TO GO BACK TO THE 'ROADMAP' AND CREATE A VIABLE PALESTINIAN
STATE THAT WILL REQUIRE PAINFUL CONCESSIONS, SIMILAR TO THOSE
THAT WERE ALMOST AGREED TO UNDER PRESIDENT CLINTON? SHARON
HIMSELF MAY NOT KNOW EXACTLY WHERE HE IS GOING. HIS FUTURE
WILL DEPEND ON THE ELECTIONS AND ON THE PALESTINIANS. BUT AT
LEAST HE WANTS TO RID ISRAEL OF THE IDEOLOGISTS AND THEIR

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PLANS FOR GREATER ISRAEL, THUS GIVING PEACE A CHANCE."
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